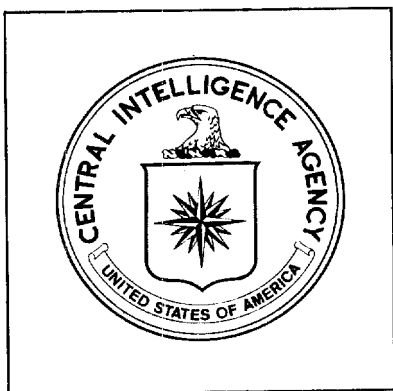


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STAFF NOTES:

Western Europe Canada International Organizations

State Dept. review completed

DIA review
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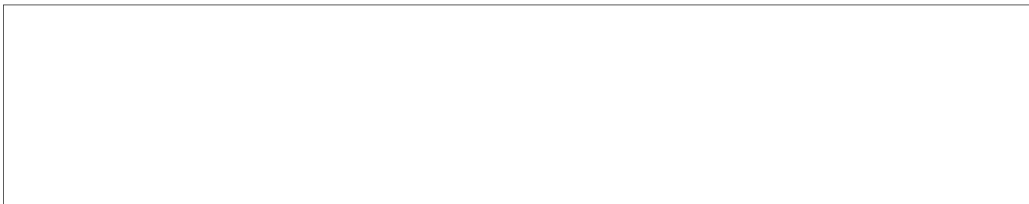
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WESTERN EUROPE – CANADA – INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

This publication is prepared for regional specialists in the Washington community by the Western Europe Division, Office of Current Intelligence, with occasional contributions from other offices within the Directorate of Intelligence. Comments and queries are welcome. They should be directed to the authors of the individual articles.

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Portuguese Socialist Party Shifting to Left

Portuguese Foreign Minister Mario Soares will face some hard decisions when he returns home this week from a visit to a number of communist and neutral states. The decisions concern the problems of the Socialist Party, which he heads and which is shifting sharply to the left.

Soares' first decision will be whether to resign his cabinet post to devote his full energies to party matters. The party's congress last month served to sharpen its divisions and reveal its general disorganization.

Soares reportedly promised his supporters after the congress that he would resign from the government this month. He has not, however, been showing much enthusiasm or ability for party work, having become fond of the prestige and influence that go with being foreign minister.

The congress failed to make decisions on many key points in the party's program. The short-term social and economic measures that were adopted by the congress are more radical than those advocated by any other major Portuguese party, including the Communist Party.

The US embassy in Lisbon reports that attempts to get the congress to accept a more moderate program were rejected overwhelmingly.

The delegates devoted most of their time to electing a slate of party leaders. Two slates were offered for the party's 151-member national commission. Although the slate led by Soares won, the commission has a more leftist cast than the party membership as a whole. This cast is likely to be strengthened when the 20 seats allotted to youth are filled at the Socialist Youth Congress later this month.

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A temporary secretariat has been named, and by the time a permanent one is to be selected, the Socialist youth representatives will be on the national commission, which selects the leadership. Soares, however, probably will survive as secretary general.

The congress has given the commission authority to complete those portions of the party's program that were not addressed at the congress. A draft of the program calls for gradual Portuguese withdrawal from all political and military blocs. Some would like to write in provisions for establishing a common election front with the Communist Party.

Soares has taken a stand against both, but he will be under intense pressure to radicalize the party's program.

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Ankara Pressing British on Refugee Question

The Turks are currently engaged in a well-publicized effort to obtain the release of the Turkish Cypriots who sought refuge at a British Sovereign Base in southern Cyprus during the fighting last summer. The British resisted earlier Turkish representations on this issue in an effort to strengthen the Greek Cypriot bargaining position, but reportedly are now preparing to release the refugees in the face of the well-orchestrated Turkish campaign.

During his visit to Cyprus last week, former Turkish prime minister Ecevit told cheering Turkish Cypriots that there could be no progress on resolving substantive issues until the problem of the refugees in the south was settled. Turkish Cypriot spokesmen have echoed this line and challenged the British position that the problem should be resolved through the Denktash-Clerides negotiations.

Turkish Cypriot leader Denktash and the minister of defense in the Autonomous Turkish Cypriot Administration have issued statements charging that the British refusal to release the refugees contravenes international treaties and accepted standards for the treatment of refugees. The minister of Defense noted that if the British persist the Turkish Cypriots would feel free to ignore British treaty rights to certain facilities on Cyprus, including airport, harbor, and water supply facilities.

In Ankara, Foreign Minister Esenbel called in the British ambassador on January 6 to tell him that Turkey's patience was running out. This story was apparently deliberately leaked

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to the Turkish press as was word that Esenbel had sent a letter to British Foreign Secretary Callaghan rejecting discussion of the refugee issue by Denktash and Clerides and saying the matter would entail a review of Turkish-British relations. The Turkish press has also played up reports that several Turkish Cypriots had died of sickness on the British bases since last July, presumably because of the poor living conditions.

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Feeling sure of their ground, the Turks may be publicizing their current effort on behalf of the refugees to gain credit for a diplomatic victory. This in turn could be used to improve Turkish Cypriot negotiator Denktash's position which has been weakened recently by political and administrative difficulties. It could also give the Turkish government more flexibility in the forthcoming Cyprus talks at a time when domestic politics and the appearance of bowing to US pressure are making it more difficult for Ankara to make the kind of concessions necessary for a settlement.

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Spanish Service Ministers Warn Against Politicization
of Armed Forces

The warning against the impropriety of political activity by members of the armed forces, which the ministers of the three services made at their annual New Year's receptions last week, has led to speculation that this problem already is serious. In a Washington Post article this week, Miguel Acoca refers to analysts who said that the service ministers, with an eye on Portugal, were expressing official worry over the spreading influence of "covert junior officer groups which meet to analyze current national and international events and their possible relationship with ambitious senior officers."

The deputy chief of Spanish army intelligence told the US defense attache this week that the army minister's remarks were intended as a restatement of the Army's apolitical role. He claimed it was timed to the effective date of the decree law permitting political associations on January 12 and was not connected to political unrest among junior officers.

The US defense attache observes that this denial of involvement by junior officers in political activity is consistent with the available evidence, although no one rules out the possibility that somewhere in Spain or Spanish Africa there is a captain's junta which is carefully studying the Portuguese example.

Some of the high-ranking officers are openly engaged in politics as national councilors of Franco's National Movement, as deputies in the Cortes, or as present or former service ministers. The warnings probably were not directed at this type of activity. But the ministers' warning against supporting a "definite political position" may well have been aimed at officers who now lead the newly formed Unified Veterans Organization. The latter is a potentially powerful pressure group whose aim is to defend "traditionalist" views in

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the National Movement against efforts to liberalize the Franco system.

The ministers' remarks imply acceptance by the armed forces of the emergence of political associations but prohibit participation by any active duty officers in forming or leading such associations.



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